

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This First Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to reduce the number of claims for initial examination.

Claims 2-4, 16-56, 61-68, and 80-99 have been canceled. Claims 1, 5-15, 57-60, 70-79, and 100-109 are pending for examination.

Cancellation of the claims in this application is without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof, and without prejudice to re-presenting those claims in this application or filing one or more continuation applications directed to those claims.

Entry of this First Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Date: _____

4/8/04

Respectfully submitted,



John P. O'Banion, Reg. No. 33,201
O'BANION & RITCHEY LLP
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1550
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 498-1010